

**To:** Abendschan, Sharon[Abendschan.Sharon@epa.gov]; Koschel, Courtney[Koschel.Courtney@epa.gov]; Land, Kelcey[Land.Kelcey@epa.gov]; McCaffrey, Shawn[Mccaffrey.Shawn@epa.gov]; O'Reilly, Maureen[OReilly.Maureen@epa.gov]; Phillips, Virginia[Phillips.Virginia@epa.gov]; Ross, William G[Ross.WG@epa.gov]; Urdiales, Aaron[Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov]; Wilder, Scott[Wilder.Scott@epa.gov]; Zaynard, Sue[Zaynard.Sue@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]; Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]; Schmittdiel, Paula[Schmittdiel.Paula@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rudy, Michael  
**Sent:** Mon 9/29/2014 1:33:40 PM  
**Subject:** FW: EPA PLANS TO PLUG POLLUTED MINE NEAR SILVERTON IN 2015

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# EPA PLANS TO PLUG POLLUTED MINE NEAR SILVERTON IN 2015

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**By Mary Shinn**  
**Durango Herald**

Poisonous metals flow from many abandoned mines near Silverton, but in 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency plans to address one that is draining hundreds of gallons of toxins a minute into the watershed.

Representatives from several government agencies, including the EPA, informed La Plata and San Juan county commissioners last week that the Red and Bonita Mine will

be plugged to help stem the flow of metals.

“This is a worthwhile investment,” said Steve Way, on-scene coordinator for the EPA.

The agency plans to pay for the large concrete bulkhead, which could cost between \$750,000 and \$1.5 million, Way said.

The Red and Bonita Mine is a major source of metals such as cadmium, zinc, iron and aluminum that have been flowing into Cement Creek and are responsible for killing off native fish and other species, the researchers told local commissioners.

“We really need to do something about this before it gets worse,” said John Ott, general manager of Animas Water Co.

While his well water is in good shape, he said as a farmer on the Animas River below Bakers Bridge, he is disturbed by the pollution.

In 2003, the Sunnyside Gold Corp., the last major mining operation in Silverton, stopped treating the water in Cement Creek.

Then in 2006, the Red and Bonita started leaking high levels of metals after the American Tunnel was plugged in several places, which raised the water table, said Peter Butler, co-coordinator of the Animas River Stakeholders Group.

Mike Rudy

Senior Enforcement Specialist & Civil Investigator  
Region 8, Technical Enforcement Program Superfund  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Mail Code: ENF-RC  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Tel: (303) 312-6332  
Fax: (303) 312-7519



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**From:** Mike Rudy [mailto:mrudyinco@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2014 7:29 AM  
**To:** Rudy, Michael  
**Subject:** EPA PLANS TO PLUG POLLUTED MINE NEAR SILVERTON IN 2015

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